(3) Assistance to public libraries below district level for increasing accommodation.

(4) Assistance to State Central Libraries and District Libraries to acquire TV-cum-VCR sets for educational purposes.

(5) Assistance to voluntary organisations providing public library services.

(6) Assistance to children's libraries or children's section of general public libraries.

(7) Assistance to centrally sponsored libraries such as Jawahar Bal Bhavans, Nehru Yuvak Kendras etc.

[Translation]

Nursing Home Facility To Ex-MPs

3524. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ex-Members of Parliament are facing difficulties due to non-availability of nursing home facility in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, whether a memorandum has also been submitted to the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Nursing home facilities are available in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and G.B. Pant Hospital. Ex-Members of Parliament are allotted these facilities depending on the availability of rooms in above Hospitals.

A memorandum was presented by the Federation of Legislators of India on 20th August, 1996 and a meeting held with them by Government in this regard. The existing facilities for Ex-MPs was explained to them.

The Central Government have recognised certain private hospitals under the CGHS Delhi whereby all the CGHS beneficiaries including Ex-MPs can obtain treetment at the hospital of their choice.

Privatisation of Waterways

3525. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally decided to hand over the construction work of new waterways and development of old ones to private sector in the country and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

IP Under Construction

3526. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several irrigation projects which were under construction in the country during December, 1996;

(b) if so, the number of projects out of them which are being implemented by the Government with foreign financial assistance;

(c) the number of projects among them which are lagging behind their original schedule of completion and the minimum and maximum duration of delay of the projects; and

(d) the target fixed for completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) As on December, 1996, 162 Major, 256 Medium and 107 Extension/Renovation Modernisation (ERM) Projects were under construction in the Country.

(b) Eleven Projects out of them are being implemented by the Government with foreign financial assistance.

(c) Generally a Major irrigation project is expected to take 10 to 15 years and a medium project five years for its completion. On this basis 107 major, 206 medium and 61 ERM Projects are lagging behind schedule. The maximum delay is in case of two major projects started in Ist Plan. The minimum delay is in the case of Major Projects started in VII Plan.

(d) It is assessed by the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation projects for IX Plan that apart from 9 major, 20 medium and 12 ERM projects reported to have been completed during the first four years of VIII Plan, another 29 major, 80 medium and 33 ERM projects are likely to be completed by the end of VIII Plan and the balance are likely to spill over.

Foreign Aid for Road Projects in Gujarat

3527. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a list of important road projects before the